

Director's Report February 2011

A New Year and New Beginnings

A new year is a time of new hopes, new beginnings and new resolutions. Whether you are seeking to change careers or find a new job, improve your finances, live a healthier lifestyle, begin a new hobby, “ace” an exam or complete a school project, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) is here to help. We have materials on money management, healthy eating and exercise, career development and more.

Collection Matters

If you received an e-book reader during the holidays, you can download titles anytime through Maryland's Digital eLibrary, available from MCPL's website. With downloadable media available 24/7, MCPL is always open!

Reading MCPL's e-books is free, and there are never any overdue fees. Titles available include popular new books in many genres as well as tens of thousands of public domain books.

Library cardholders with Nooks, Sony Readers, iPhones, Android phones, and other compatible devices can borrow e-books. (Amazon's Kindle is not a compatible device.)

MCPL provides online tips and instructions for downloading our e-books at <http://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/content.php?pid=38466&sid=282450>

In addition to e-books, MCPL offers downloadable audiobooks from Maryland's Digital eLibrary and from NetLibrary, children's video storybooks from BookFlix, and an immense collection of streaming music. Follow the link to the E-Library on the left menu bar of our website and explore!

New Library Policies

In order to help Montgomery County Public Libraries maintain a cooperative environment within branches for all customers, help maintain the cleanliness of library buildings and effect greater staff efficiency and accuracy, the following policy changes will go into effect Tuesday, February 1.

- Food and drink -- other than water -- are no longer permitted in the library, due to a decrease in the County's ability to clean library branches.
- Cell phones must be set on vibrate as a courtesy to other library users.
- In order to ensure accuracy of library accounts, customers without their library card must show proof of identity when checking out materials. Borrowers must have an active library account and be in good standing to check out materials. Customers should have their library card in hand when checking out.

Program Highlights for February

A variety of programs in celebration of Black History Month and the Chinese Lunar New Year will be presented in February.

In partnership with the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, the African American Employees Association and the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, MCPL will host a five-part series of community discussions about the history of African Americans in Montgomery County. The series entitled “Journey through African American History” will feature local historians and authors such as Nina Honemond Clarke who became one of the first African American teachers to teach white children and was the second African American woman principal of an integrated school. Other programs include dance and drumming performances by the Soul in Motion Ensemble and Discovery Theater presentations of “Black Diamond: Satchel Paige and the Negro Baseball Leagues,” a portrayal of the struggles and triumphs of early African American baseball players.

The Lunar New Year will be celebrated with traditional Chinese lion dance performances, yo-yo demonstrations, shadow puppet performances, folk dance and hands-on Chinese arts. The programs will take place at 12 branches now through February 26. Program performers include the Washington, DC Chinese Youth Club (CYC) and students from the Madison Chinese Dance Academy and Li Ming Chinese Academy. Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.

The Washington National Opera for Children returns to MCPL with a performance of “Hansel and Gretel” at the Potomac Library on Saturday, February 26 at 11 a.m. This is the perfect opportunity to enjoy opera with the entire family.

Our popular job skills workshops, presented in partnership with Montgomery Works, the Jewish Social Services Agency and the Commission for Women, will resume in February at the following library branches: Long Branch, Silver Spring, Twinbrook, Wheaton and White Oak. Topics include “Interviewing for Success,” “High Impact Resumes,” “Internet Job Search Strategies,” “Networking Made Simple,” and “How to Apply for a Federal Job.” For more information about these programs and other library programs, please see our online calendar of events at

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/newsandevents/calendarofevents.asp>

Celebrate! Library Lovers Month

The Friends of the Library has designated February as Library Lovers Month – a month-long celebration of libraries and a great opportunity to advocate for your public library. For more information, or to join a Friends of the Library group in your community, please visit www.folmc.org .

B. Parker Hamilton
Director